

MANSFIELD CEMETERY COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 19, 2014, 3:30 p.m.

ROOM B, AUDREY P. BECK MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: Barry Burnham, Rudy Favretti, Jeanne Mogayzel, Mark Mogayzel, Jane Reinhardt, and Keith Wilson

STAFF PRESENT: John Carrington

Chairman Favretti called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A motion to approve the minutes of Sept. 18, 2013 (J. Mogayzel) was made and seconded (Reinhardt) and passed unanimously.

The Sexton's report was discussed in detail.

1. The number of burials were noted
2. It was noted that the road work in the Gurley Cemetery has been completed except for the granite posts that will be placed to delineate the curve that is close to a steep slope. These have been ordered and will be placed as weather permits.
3. The issue of finances, as expressed in paragraph four of the Sexton's report was discussed at some length. Topics such as revising the lawn mowing and snow plowing schedules, restoration, and other costly maintenance needs were considered. It was agreed that restoration should continue because in two more seasons the restoration work –that has cost about nine to ten thousand dollars per season - will be completed. However, since it is difficult to make decisions without knowing the exact financial problems, and what the town might absorb, it was decided that a meeting should be held in the near future, with the Director of Finance present to explain. A motion was made by M. Mogayzel, and seconded by K. Wilson, to invite the Director of Finance to our next meeting so that she can present the entire story in detail. Prior to that meeting this Committee shall be sent the original agreement regarding the funds left to the down as an endowment for maintenance so that we will understand the exact wording and intent. No decision was made as to raising the cost of plots, nor having the town do the snow plowing, though these topics were also considered.
4. A brief discussion about the damage to the Jacobs Cemetery was held. The Committee awaits a final decision as to settlement.
5. Regarding the Sexton's concern about stones being taken from the east wall of the New Mansfield Center Cemetery, it is recommended that three small signs be posted, along the length of the wall, stating that "This cemetery is under strict surveillance. Do not remove stones from this wall."

SONAR MAPPING:

The chairman posted the sonar maps. The Sexton's request that permanent markers be placed at the corners of the sonar-studied area, for measuring to lay out graves, was discussed. Carrington said that he would place this on his staff's list of jobs to do.

RESTORATION:

The consensus is that restoration work should continue this year and next (2014,2015) after which the major work should be completed. If that work is put off, the monuments will further deteriorate and costs double, or more. This topic will be discussed further at our next meeting after hearing the report of the Director of Finance.

OTHER:

It was decided to hold our next meeting on April 23, 2014, at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Rudy J. Favretti, Chairman

(Secretary *pro tem*)